

10. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the ceramic carrier materials are selected from the group consisting of hydroxylapatite, calciumphosphate, aluminum oxide, and ionomer cement.

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11. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the metallic carrier material is titanium or titanium alloy.

12. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the nonmetallic carrier material is carbon.

13. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the polymer is derived from natural monomers taken from the group consisting of amino acids, glutamic acid, lactic acid, hydroacetic acid, and copolymers thereof.

14. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the polymer is a polylactate.

15. (Twice amended) A method of producing, reproducing or stabilizing vertebral structures or of fixing endoprosthesis comprising the step of implanting a composition according to claim 1 into living beings.

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17. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the metallic carrier material is titanium or a titanium alloy.

18. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the nonmetallic carrier material is carbon.

19. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the ceramic carrier materials are selected from the group consisting of hydroxylapatite, calciumphosphate, aluminum oxide, and ionomer cement.

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20. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the carrier is an endoprosthesis.

15 21. (Twice amended) A method of treating osteoporosis and pseudoarthrosis or of filling bone defects comprising the step of implanting a composition according to claim 8 into living beings.

16 23. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the ceramic carrier materials are selected from the group consisting of hydroxylapatite, calciumphosphate, aluminum oxide, and ionomer cement.

24. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the metallic carrier material is titanium or a titanium alloy.

25. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the nonmetallic carrier material is carbon.

17 26. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein large bone defects are filled.

18 27. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the polymer is derived from natural monomers taken from the group consisting of amino acids, glutamic acid, lactic acid, hydroacetic acid, and copolymers thereof.

19 28. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein the polymer is a polylactate.

29. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the polymer is derived from natural monomers taken from the group consisting of amino acids, glutamic acid, lactic acid, hydroacetic acid, and copolymers thereof.

20 30. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the polymer is a polylactate.

31. (Twice amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the carrier comprises a lattice structure for receiving the active ingredient complex therein.

32. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the carrier comprises a lattice structure for receiving the active ingredient complex therein.

33. (Twice amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the carrier comprises a lattice structure for receiving the active ingredient complex therein.

34. (Amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the carrier is collagen coated with the active ingredient complex.

35. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the carrier is a collagen coated with the active ingredient complex.

38. (Amended) A composition according to claim 8, wherein said growth or maturation component is a cytokine.

39. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said growth or maturation component is a cytokine.

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of a personal interview in which Examiner Anish Gupta and Minh-Quan K. Pham discussed several issues in respect to the pending application. During the interview, the claims are discussed with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. In addition, it was agreed that the preamble of a composition claim would be given no patentable weight.

Claims 8, 10-15, 17-21, 23-35, and 38-39 are pending. Claims 8, 10-15, 17-21, 23-35, and 38-39 have been amended. Claims 36-37 have been canceled herein. Claims 9, 16, and 22 have been canceled in the Amendment filed August 24, 2001.